

Sustainable Community Success Stories

West Moberly First Nations British Columbia

WALKING THE TALK

West Moberly First Nations' Vision for a Green Energy Community

With a backyard criss-crossed by conventional energy development, the West Moberly First Nations is demonstrating that green energy is the way forward.

Community Energy Plan

West Moberly is already a leader on the green energy path. In 2009, West Moberly completed a Community Energy Plan that outlined how the community could reduce its energy use through conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy opportunities, including solar hot water and wind.

Community Action

West Moberly is one of the first First Nations communities in BC to have participated in the Community Action on Energy and Emissions program. Through this program, they committed to reaching three key targets:

- 1 Reduce vehicle fleet fuel use by 15%
- 2 Reduce energy use in community buildings by 9%
- 3 Generate 10% of energy from clean, renewable, low-impact sources

To meet these targets, West Moberly has already:

- completed ecoEnergy audits on 23 of its 32 homes
- completed ecoEnergy audits on its five main community buildings
- installed a solar hot water system on its commercial lodge
- installed a solar hot water system on one home
- provided solar hot water installation training for five members of the community

West Moberly's vision

To tread lightly on the Earth by reducing our energy footprint and by leading other communities along the path towards clean, renewable, low-impact energy use in Canada.



Photo: Edward Gwynnman

Through an innovative partnership with Dawson Creek, West Moberly First Nations has provided solar hot water installation training to five members of its community. See page 2 for more details.

West Moberly works in partnership with the Pembina Institute's Sustainable Communities Group



Fall 2009

Solar Hot Water Project

Community partnerships

West Moberly is the first First Nations community to be awarded the honour of “Solar Community” by SolarBC. Responding to a need for more certified solar hot water installers in the Peace region, West Moberly partnered with the City of Dawson Creek to organize a training program with Northern Lights College. As a result of the program, five members of the West Moberly community and four members of the Dawson Creek community have been trained as solar hot water installers. By increasing the number of trained installers, the two communities will remove one of the main barriers to wider use of solar hot water systems in the Peace region.

Photo: Claire Beckstead, The Pembina Institute



The Community Action plan included energy audits on community buildings in West Moberly, including the Dunne-Za Lodge.

Moving the green economy forward

Through this project, West Moberly has also shown that moving in a green direction has economic development benefits as well. The hot water installers in West Moberly will have a marketable skill that will increase green energy use in the area as well as provide economic opportunities for business development for West Moberly.



The Pembina Institute's Sustainable Communities Group is working in Canadian communities and internationally to help municipalities, Aboriginal communities and policy makers to identify solutions to meet their sustainability goals. communities.pembina.org

Photo: Edward Cryingman



Through a course with Northern Lights College, community members are now trained in solar hot water installation.

Photo: Edward Cryingman



Solar Hot Water

Solar hot water heaters work by pre-heating water using solar energy. Usually these systems are installed on the tops of buildings, where they are exposed to the greatest amount of sunlight. Once the water is pre-heated, it is piped into the building's existing water tank. Because it comes into the tank pre-heated, there is a significant decrease in the amount of energy needed to bring the water to the desired temperature for washing and bathing inside the building. Water heating typically accounts for 15% of hot water heating in homes and solar hot water heaters can save almost 10% of total home energy use each year.

Sustainable Energy Solutions